

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 08415 111323Z

47

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-05 IO-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05

OES-03 OMB-01 IGA-01 AID-05 PRS-01 /055 W

----- 024590

R 111300Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3630

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 8415

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, EC

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ LARA: 3 - NARCOTICS

REF: A. QUITO 8413 B) QUITO 3908 C) QUITO 5413

1. DURING THE COURSE OF A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ LARA ON DECEMBER 10, HE BROUGHT UP THE QUESTION OF NARCOTICS. REFERRING TO OUR JOINT COLLABORATION IN THIS FIELD, HE EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR OUR TRAINING OF BOTH THE POLICE AND CUSTOMS POLICE. I TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT I HAD HAD SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT POVEDA ON THIS MATTER, THAT WE WERE IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH THE MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT AT A WORKING LEVEL ON THIS PROBLEM, THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN PROBLEMS, BUT THAT I WAS CONFIDENT WE COULD OVERCOME THEM. I THEN SUGGESTED TO THE PRESIDENT THAT HE CONSIDER MAKING REFERENCE TO THE PROBLEM OF NARCOTICS TRAFFIC IN ONE OF HIS SPEECHES. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT THE MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT HAD BROUGHT UP THIS IDEA AT A CABINET MEETING AND THAT THEY HAD DISCUSSED IT TOGETHER WITH PLANS FOR AN EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN WITHIN THE COUNTRY. HE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD ADDRESS HIMSELF SPECIFICALLY TO THIS SUBJECT IN A PUBLIC SPEECH. HE NOTED THAT WHILE THERE WAS NOT MUCH PRODUCTION OF NARCOTICS IN ECUADOR, IT WAS A TRANSIT POINT FOR NARCOTICS COMING FROM COUNTRIES SUCH AS PERU AND THAT

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THIS WAS A PROBLEM FOR HIS GOVERNMENT AND FOR ECUADOREAN

SOCIETY.

2. COMMENT: IT WAS EVIDENT FROM THE PRESIDENT'S
REMARKS THAT HE WAS FULLY KNOWLEDGEABLE OF MY AUGUST
CONVERSATION WITH ADMIRAL POVEDA (REF B) AND OF THE INCREASING
EXTENT OF OUR COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION IN THE
NARCOTICS FIELD. HIS COMMENT ON THE QUESTION OF A
DOMESTIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AND THE POSSIBILITY OF
HIS ADDRESSING THE PUBLIC ON NARCOTICS IN A PUBLIC
SPEECH COINCIDES WITH WHAT MINISTER POVEDA TOLD ME.
I BELIEVE WE CAN COUNT ON HIS INTEREST IN AND SUPPORT
FOR OUR PROGRAMS.
BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974QUITO08415
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740359-0737
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741243/aaaabkzk.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 QUITO 8413, 74 QUITO 3908, 74 QUITO 5413
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 SEP 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ LARA: 3 - NARCOTICS
TAGS: SNAR, EC, US, (LARA, RODRIGUEZ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005